Prices of Edlible Oil

3285. SHRI KALPNATH RAI; Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures to control the price of the edible oil which has been going up relentlessly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of the rise in the prices of different varieties of edible oils during the last six months and the :reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Measures taken by the Government are as under:

(i) Various measures are taken by the Government to increase the production of indigenous edible oil-seeds.

(ii) The allocation of imported edible oils to States | Union Territories under Public Distribution System are adjusted according to lean and flush season to keep edible oil prices at reasonable level.

(c) The wholesale prices of different varieties of edible oils as *on* 30.5/86 and 29.11.'86 are as follows:.

(Rs. per tonne)

Item	As on 30-5-86	As on 29-11-86	Variation in prices
Groundnut oil (Bombay)	17524	18824	+1300
Mustard oil (Delhi)	14607	17609	+3002
Coconut oil (Cochin)	18800	28800 (28-11-86)	+10000

Some of the reasons for rise in prices of edible oils are decline in the production of oilseeds during the year due to drought and the impact of lean period starting from May.

Effects of power shortage in steel Industry

3286. SHRI SUBAS MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the power shortage in the country has affected the production of steel as reported in the news in Hindustan Times of the 3rd September, 1986; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Because of fall in power generation of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) since the last week of June, 1986, DVC has imposed power restrictions on the steel plants. This has resulted in substantial loss of production of saleable steel at Bokaro and Durgapur Steel Plants and ingot steel at Alloy Steel Plant, Durgapur..

The power supply position to the steel sector is under constant review

at the Inter-Ministerial level. Steps have aslo been taken to transfer additional power from other grids to the DVC to the extent possible. Also a variety of measures which, *inter alia,* include renovation and' modernisation of the existing units and adding to the existing capacity through short gestation schemes have been undertaken.

As a long term measure and to reduce the dependence of steel plants on external power supply, additional captive generation capacities are being created by setting up a (3x60 MW) captive power plant at Bokaro Steel Plant and a (2x60 MW) captive power plant at Durgapur Steel Plant.

Refusal to issue visa to Agricultural Scientists of Philippines

3287. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have not issued any Special visa to two Agricultural Scientists of the International Rice Research Institute of Philippines to visit Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, in July, 1986; and

(b) if *so,* what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Permission was granted by the Ministry of Home Affairs for two Agricultural Scientists of International Rice Research Institute to visit Assam vide their telex dated 28.8.86 to the Indian Embassy at Manila.

(b) Does not arise.

Panchayat elections

3288. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state whether the Central Government propose to amend the constitution so as to institutionalise the Panchayat elections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): No. Sir.

Lift irrigation scheme in Andhra Pradesh

3289. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA;
SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA;

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Lift Irrigation Scheme of the Central Government to be implemented on river Krishna at Chinna Marrur village, Veepangandla Mandal - in Mahabub Nagar district of Andhra Pradesh with the aid of the Government of Netherlands; and

(b) if so, what is the present stage of the scheme?

THE MINISTER! OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) There is no such scheme of Government of India. However, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has proposed certain Subsurface and Surface Water Minor Irrigation Schemes for Netherlands assistance which include Lift Irrigation Schemes on river Krishna in' addition to four other river basins. Five districts, namely, Guntur, Kurnool, Mahabub NE,gar, Nalgonda and Krishna are proposed to be covered in the Krishna River Basin. The exact locations of the Schemes are yet to be finalised. The Planning Commission have sought certain clarifications to clear the proposal and these are awaited from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.